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SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1909.

THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE POLI-TAX.

The esteemed Norfolk Landmark says, with every evidence of earnest conviction: "It is only a matter of time when something will be done about the poli-tax." It is difficult to say how far such confidence is justified. A constitutional amendment must pass both houses of two successive Legislatures and then be ratified by the people in a general election. No change in the poli-tax qualification could now be made before 1912. We shall get new experience in these three years. Even if the bulk of sentiment in the State is now favorable to such a change, it seems by no means certain that this sentiment will continue uninterrupted until the tedious process of amendment has been completed.

The corruption charge against the poli-tax has not impressed this newspaper. Evidence has not been forthcoming to substantiate it, nor is it supported by the reasonable probabilities. Our information is that where corruption has crept in, prepayment of the tax alone has not been enough to "fix" floating voters, who must be flattered, checked up and "done the right thing" on election day. This representation certainly seems more plausible than that men would sell themselves, not for visible cash in the hand, but simply for the pleasure of leaving their daily labors to cast a ballot. So far as it is accurate, the poli-tax thus acts not as an aid to corruption, but as a decided check upon it. The briber must pay not only the voter's personal price, but in addition the legally fixed tax upon his head. To cut down the advance time for paying this latter, as is proposed, would seem to be helpful to the briber and small loss, in that it is much easier to keep tab on a "qualified" list for thirty days than for six months.

The other leading argument against the poli-tax, that it has decidedly reduced the electorate, is much better founded. How far the poli-tax, among other restrictive provisions, is responsible for it, and how far this reduction has injured the representative character of the electorate, seem rather indeterminate. But in any case, the sound way to remedy the case of a large body of citizens who have disfranchised themselves through negligence, is not to make the franchise easier to get, but to stimulate citizens to the duty of getting it. The newspapers can do real public service in this way, and the loss of a vote in one interesting campaign would doubtless of itself have a highly remedial effect. To make concessions and take a lower ground now would be to concede that the white citizens of Virginia had not justified the confidence which the framers of the Constitution felt in them.

SEQUESTERED SECLUSION AND SEQUESTERED SEQUESTERATION.

Will our neighbor tell us why the Davis Mansion is "remote" or sequestered?—The News Leader of Yesterday, Certainly.

Some quiet and seclusion gives exactly the appropriate atmosphere for an abbey.—The News Leader of the day before yesterday, of the Davis Mansion site.

Now, the faithful Times-Dictionary: Seclusion, n. 1.—The state of being shut out, as from company, society, the world.

Sequester, v. 1. trans. 1.—To put aside; remove; separate from other things; SECLUDE.

The Davis Mansion is remote or sequestered, because the News Leader says so.

Incidentally, since we are on the topic, we fancy that many of those who have the building of the Abbey closest at heart will be somewhat perturbed at having captured the support of our always-able neighbor. It had been understood that the final recommendation of the Davis Mansion site was due by no means to an exclusive preference for that site, but to the fact that no other seemed financially available, and that it had become desirable to agree upon something. We venture to say that the News Leader's gallant championing of the northeast end location will create some perturbation among those who have finally decided to recommend it.

EGGS AND SENATORS.

A court decision in Little Rock, Ark., has apparently established the fact that eggs may be thrown at United States Senator Jeff Davis at a cost of \$1 per egg. While Mr. Davis was Governor of Arkansas a similar court decision established the right of citizens to throw him with a chair-leg at \$1 per thump. Judicial custom thus seems to be gravitating toward a flat uniform rate. Construction and interpretation are piling precedent on precedent to declare that Arkansians may relieve their feelings upon Senator Davis in all the milder and less homicidal forms of procedure, at the not

unvarying, strictly one-price figure of \$1, costs reasonable. Why pay more?

Quotations on eggs Senators are too rare to admit of more than speculative comparisons, but we are confident that no State will soon undercut Arkansas. Most States would certainly go far above here. We have little doubt that any Massachusetts man, for example, so lost to all sense of the proprieties as to project an egg, or any other article of a derivative nature whatsoever, at Senator Lodge, would be invited to cool his shins and mend his manners in the town jail. We shudder to think what might befall the miscreant who endeavored to flout physically the young and handsome Beveridge or the austere and stately Hale. No, we may depend upon it, the Arkansas tariff defies competition, and even it is subject to change without notice. We have an idea that it may be suddenly and enormously hoisted in 1913, during which year the tenure of the present incumbent expires.

PENSIONS FOR AGE.

Observant pessimists—or should we rather say optimists?—are predicting that we shall see old age pensions in this country within ten years. This, we take it, conveys the primary opinion that we shall remain a high tariff country forever and a day. Not the least part of the duty of the protection lobby is keeping a tight and encouraging eye on national expenditures. Since an overflowing treasury has commonly been the occasion of cutting down import duties, no little care must be taken to see that the treasury does not overflow. The value to the well-informed protectionist of "keeping up" our scandalous disbursements for war pensions is readily apparent, while a system of old age pensions would mean some brand-new nails driven to the head in our tariff wall.

England's experience with the last named novelty is worth watching in any case. The law went into effect only on January 1, but concern is already deepening about it. The concern is, as was to be expected, chiefly financial, the actual expenses of operation for the first year showing a tendency to jump some 25 per cent. over the original estimate. Persons over seventy, who have an income of less than \$105 a year, it will be recalled, are to receive the maximum of \$120 per week; while smaller pensions, fixed by a sliding scale, will apply to those having annual incomes up to \$155. This is the law as passed. Mr. Asquith thought that 500,000 persons in the United Kingdom would be eligible to benefit under it. Mr. Lloyd George raised the estimate to 572,000; the actual number of beneficiaries in this first year will be nearer 625,000. This number will grow larger as the years run on. Moreover, there is the interesting possibility that the Laborites may one day carry their point and reduce the age limit to sixty, or even lower. Here is a thought to make chancellors of exchequer dream dreams of nights.

England has set her foot upon a perilous path. To abolish an old age pensions law after it had been in operation for years would be much more difficult, and certainly more open to bitter attack, than wiping a Dingley tariff act off the books. We think that it will be a long time before this country will care to take any such old man of the sea upon its shoulders.

WOMEN HELPING THE GOOD ROADS CAUSE.

A lady, writing from Philadelphia to the New York Sun, says that a very interesting conference which recently took place in Washington was due entirely to urgent letters and telegrams from Southern women at home. This was the good roads conference between the Country Life Commission and a committee from the Mothers' Congress. The scope of the congress' work is "to improve the physical, mental and moral conditions of the children," and the roads question had hitherto seemed aloof from its program. Now, however, the congress knows better. Southern women living in rural districts have pressing directed its attention to the intimate relation of country roads and country schools. Its committee has met and exchanged ideas with the Country Life Commission, and the Mothers' Congress has formed a new "department of good roads and school improvement."

There would be no beating the movement for better highways in the South if the women generally took a hand in it, and it is a most hopeful sign that so good a start in that direction should already have been made. Bad roads cut into the farmer's life at every point. They mean more cost and more discomfort in hauling his produce to market, more wear and tear on his wagons, fewer trips to town. They cut off his wife from his neighbors' wives, and shut her up in the farm house. They keep his children away from school for three months out of a short school year. Civil government, churches and schools are already provided, good roads are the fundamental need in our Southern country districts to-day. No community is too poor to provide them, and in the result they will always prove the cheapest thing the taxpayers own.

The Rochester Post-Express says: "Can the problem of keeping a cook be solved by an exchange? Certainly—marry the cook." But the publisher of it is that a man who has less than \$20,000 a year can't decently ask a cook to marry him these days.

Richmond, while but an indifferent town for the grasping coal-dealer, occasionally throws some nice business into the hands of the gold-smiths.

We wonder if, when he understood that the Caucasian heavyweights were reluctant to meet him, Jack Johnson would have said: "I'll take 'em!"

Borrowed Jingles

THE QUITTER.
It ain't the failures he may meet
That keeps a man from winning;
It's the success that comes complete
That blocks a new beginning.
You want to quit your habits bad;
And when the shadows fall
Make the scene seem like an end
You want to quit your quitting!

You want to quit a lay-in down
An' say 'I hope is over
Because the fields are bare an' brown
Where once we lived an' loved
When joined from the water cart
It's painful to be hither
Then on the road you start—
Cheer up an' quit your quitting!

MERELY JOKING.
Yunker: "You regard society as merely a machine, do you? Well, what part of the machine do you consider me?"
Olden: "Oh! you're one of the cranks!"
—Puck-Me-Up.

Quito So.
Maude: "What is the object of having in college?"
Majorie: "I guess it's to teach the boys how to use the football games."
—Puck.

Ca'te Below Stars.
"Are there degrees of rank in the servants' hall?"
"To be sure. Maids who have charge of the house with maids who take care of children."—Pittsburg Post.

More Money In It.
"I was just reading of a man who has a hen that can sing; another man has a hen which whistles and imitates various birds."
"I don't care for these vaudeville hens. A hen should stick to the leg, and lay eggs."—Kansas City Journal.

A Harmless Kind.
"Is hypocrisy ever excusable?"
"I think so. For instance, the interest that a young man takes in the girl's family."—Kansas City Journal.

Vigorous Description.
A young soldier was complaining of the tight fit of his uniform.
"Why, father," he declared, "the collar presses my Adam's apple so hard I can taste odor."—Harper's Weekly.

THE WHISPERING GALLERY.

RED ROBINSON names Longfellow as a candidate for membership in the Oyster Institute Club. Why omit the old boarding-house larder and cold cuts?—John Greenleaf Whittier's—Houston Post.

A number of Republican willains are predicted to be in the line for the Presidency. But all they can say will never make a stir.—Houston Post.

Thirty thousand American workmen killed last year. A lot of our laborers may decide to join the army and be on the safe side.—Cleveland Leader.

What a great improvement the Red Cross is over Red Tape.—Kansas City Star.

Senator Tillman says President Roosevelt makes a "fairly good" longer and prettier words.—Arkansas Gazette.

"And now Tennessee is going 'dry'—a word which means 'dry' in the Scotch sense, but in the English it is both easier, to a certain extent, we presume—having to do with the range-finder every few months."—Washington Herald.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

Campbell oil is manufactured by Parson's merchants. At Poochow, China, they control seventeen distilleries, and export most of the produce to India.

To denigrate them is a great demand for perfume. Among the men, while face powder is a necessity for the women on account of the climate.

John W. Gates has promised the town of Arthur, N. H., a public hospital (the building to cost \$100,000) and a business college with dormitories for the students.

Mrs. Hannah C. Nichols, who died in Worcester, Mass., in 1906, was the oldest graduate of Mary Lyon's School—now Mount Holyoke College.

Miss Ellen M. Bigelow, of Athol, Mass., has entered upon her fifty-sixth year as a teacher in the public schools. She is said to be the oldest schoolteacher in point of service in the State.

It is given out authoritatively that the Kobe Street Railway Company is negotiating with the city of Kobe, Japan, for the use of the city's public lands and buildings to be used in constructing and equipping the road.

The Order of Railway Telegraphers is endeavoring to have legislation to prevent the dispatching of trains by telephone, denouncing it as unsafe, unreliable and a menace to the public.

The Columbia River is the second river in size, measured by volume, in the United States. Its maximum flow of 1,600,000 second-feet being only slightly exceeded by that of the Mississippi.

A quadrangular screen, which opens or closes as a door to which it is attached at the top, is opened or closed, invented by a Kansas City inventor, to prevent flies and other insects from entering a house.

Decrease in the area devoted to the cotton culture, is shown by the fact that there are 17,333,000 acres under cotton, as compared with 17,719,000 a year ago, and 17,742,000 the year before that.

Charles J. Capen has been a teacher in the Boston Latin School since 1832, and he's still teaching at the age of eighty-five. Every schoolboy he makes the journey from the backwoods to the city, and he's a self-taught musician.

Among the German Crown Prince's most treasured possessions is a scrapbook containing the names of the German newspapers. The first 500 pages are inscribed with a gold-leafed heading, "I hope I am not like this!"

President Roosevelt will, within a few days, receive an invitation from President Roosevelt to have his government represented at the proposed conservation conference to be held in Washington on February 1st.

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THE COURT OF EUROPE

By La Marquise de Fontenay.

Concerning the Lafayette Family.
I N view of the number of people who make use of the name of Lafayette, it is just as well to recall the fact that the name is not a common one.

Washington, there is no descendant in the male line and no one who has lawfully inherited his title of marquis, or, in fact, any nobiliary title belonging to him. Lafayette, it may be remembered, married Mile, d'Ayen. To this union there were born three children—George Washington de Lafayette (Marquis de Lafayette), and two daughters, who married the Comte de Latour-Maubourg and the Marquis de Lamoignon. The Marquis George Washington de Lafayette married Mile, de Tracy, by whom he had two sons, Oscar and Lamond de Lafayette, both of them soldiers, who became, respectively, Mies, Perier, Mies, Buxeuil, de Lamoignon, and Mies, de Lamoignon. The son of Mies, de Lamoignon, was born about twenty years ago under the name of De Lafayette in addition to his own, but never attempted to make use of the title. But there is a noble reason why he should have taken the name of De Lafayette. The Comte de Latour-Maubourg, who was the great-grandfather of the Marquis de Lafayette, was a French nobleman, and since neither of the two emperors of the French, nor yet the three kings who have reigned over France since the Restoration, have recognized upon any one the title of Count or Marquis de Lafayette, and since, moreover, the republican government does not recognize the nobility, it is not to revive dignities of this kind which in one way or another have died, it is to recall the fact that there can be no nobility in France, that the Count of Lafayette, the dignity will not be found on the roster of any representative of the nobility in France, the standard works of reference dealing with the French nobility and enumerating its members. I particularly recall the names of the Marquis de Lafayette and his descendants in Philadelphia, from whom I have received several inquiries bearing upon the matter.

No colony in the world can boast so large a colony of retired envoys as Paris; and, in addition, to Belgium, where the Marquis de Lafayette, and Perry Belmont, former minister to Spain, who have established a permanent residence there, several other retired envoys of the United States are to be found. Among them is the Marquis de Lafayette, who has now settled down to medical practice in the Champs Elysees district. He is a French nobleman, and has been for many years at the Ministry of the Interior, and has been for many years at the Ministry of the Interior, and has been for many years at the Ministry of the Interior.

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STATE PRESS.

Look on the Books and See.
Our State exchanges have been discussing for some time the subject of the capital tax six months before election as a prerequisite to voting. Many views have been expressed, some of which are of the present law on the subject. While so much discussion is going on as to qualification for the vote, it is not to be forgotten that there is another qualification that the voters have lost sight of, and one, we are told, has been violated by the registrars of the State. It is the law that every citizen who takes a look at your registration books and see how many persons (all colored) who have taken the oath of citizenship have been given an opportunity to take the oath of citizenship.

The Liquor Question.
The liquor question is a dangerous one to foot with in politics. Last year it was the subject of a campaign in Virginia. This year it elected Democratic Governors in Ohio and Indiana, where the temperance movement was strong, and it elected a prohibitionist in North Carolina, where it was not so strong. It seems to me that now, before the canvass has actively opened, it is a good time for those who are Democrats to look around and see whether they are drifting. Under the present liquor laws practically every barroom in the State is a den of iniquity. It is a fact that half of the cities are dry and many more seem likely to go that way. This is a great advantage to the temperance party and a great disadvantage to the Democratic party and without mixing up the temperance issue with politics at all. This is as it should be. But the other side of the coin is that the extreme temperance people are not satisfied.

Must Have System.
The appropriation of large sums of money for the improvement of the State is a policy that finds great public favor. There are few purposes for which the surplus funds in State treasuries could be expended more wisely than for the improvement of the State. It is a fact that the State has a large surplus of money, and it is a fact that the State has a large surplus of money, and it is a fact that the State has a large surplus of money.

Trouble for the Courts.
A Norfolk newspaper is asking when the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia is going to decide the poli-tax case and determine whether the State has a right to tax the vote. The case was presented and heard at Staunton last September, and the court has not yet decided. There are many who are wondering whether the court will decide in favor of the State or in favor of the voters.

It Means More.
The Richmond papers never speak of a "dry" city. They speak of "drying" it. It is no more stronger.—Williamsburg Gazette.

Reward Is Lacking.
The electoral college of Virginia was held in Richmond this week, and the vote was given for Mr. Bryan. The reward for the voters was not as large as it should have been. The reward for the voters was not as large as it should have been.

Enough to Start With.
The Virginia electors sent Mr. Bryan the following message: "The Virginia electors in electoral college assembled, with undiminished confidence in the integrity of the electoral college, and their respectful greeting."

A Culinary Cognomen.
We like the new Governor of North Carolina. His name is suggestive of good living.—Petersburg Independent-Appex.

He Leaves Mr. Roosevelt's Brownsville "Evidence" In Tatters.
Whatever one may think of Senator Foraker, no unbiased man can fail to be impressed by the evidence which the Brownsville revelations have furnished to prove what Mr. Roosevelt said as far back as December 19, 1906, was "proved conclusively," and again at the time of the Brownsville trial, that the two men were "guilty of the crime."

FORAKER'S KNOCKOUT SPEECH.
The Prison Association meets and tells of the conditions in the State Prison. The Prison Association meets and tells of the conditions in the State Prison.

Harvard's New President.
Prof. Lawrence Lowell, who is slated to succeed Charles W. Eliot as president of Harvard, bears his letter of credit to ancestry and social position. He is a member of the Harvard Club, and he is a member of the Harvard Club.

Man Who Has the Difficult Task of Success.
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Voice of the People

Prohibition vs. Local Option.
Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—My attention was called about a week ago to an article by your Washington correspondent, in which reference to the probable effect upon the Democratic party of the temperance or prohibition issue, I noticed that you had mentioned the fact that the Democratic party in North Carolina at the last election were due in a large degree to the State-wide prohibition law. I had myself long ago predicted that such would be the effect of that law that every liquor man in North Carolina who votes the law repeal would be voting the Republican ticket, as that was the only chance they had as the leaders of the Democratic party. The liquor question is a dangerous one to foot with in politics. Last year it was the subject of a campaign in Virginia. This year it elected Democratic Governors in Ohio and Indiana, where the temperance movement was strong, and it elected a prohibitionist in North Carolina, where it was not so strong. It seems to me that now, before the canvass has actively opened, it is a good time for those who are Democrats to look around and see whether they are drifting. Under the present liquor laws practically every barroom in the State is a den of iniquity. It is a fact that half of the cities are dry and many more seem likely to go that way. This is a great advantage to the temperance party and a great disadvantage to the Democratic party and without mixing up the temperance issue with politics at all. This is as it should be. But the other side of the coin is that the extreme temperance people are not satisfied.

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Nothing but absolute prohibition will do it. To my mind the only great reason for the liquor question is the one we now have—that is, local option. It is a fact that the State has a large surplus of money, and it is a fact that the State has a large surplus of money, and it is a fact that the State has a large surplus of money.

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